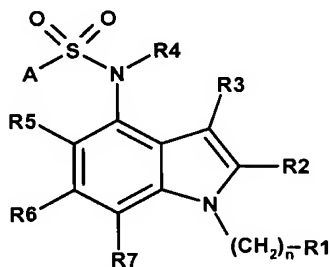


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia),



(Ia),

wherein

R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloaliphatic radical, which may contain at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl.

R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl; or an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or an optionally at least mono-substituted heteroaryl radical;

R⁴ is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least

mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted~~ aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

with the proviso that R^8 and R^9 are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them, R^8 or R^9 , is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted~~ C_1 - C_4 aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted~~ aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or

R^8 and R^9 together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted C_1 - C_6 alkylene, an optionally at least mono-substituted C_2 - C_6 alkenylene or an optionally at least mono-substituted C_2 - C_6 alkynylene group and/or which- wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member in one or more of its rings, which may be optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl, linear or

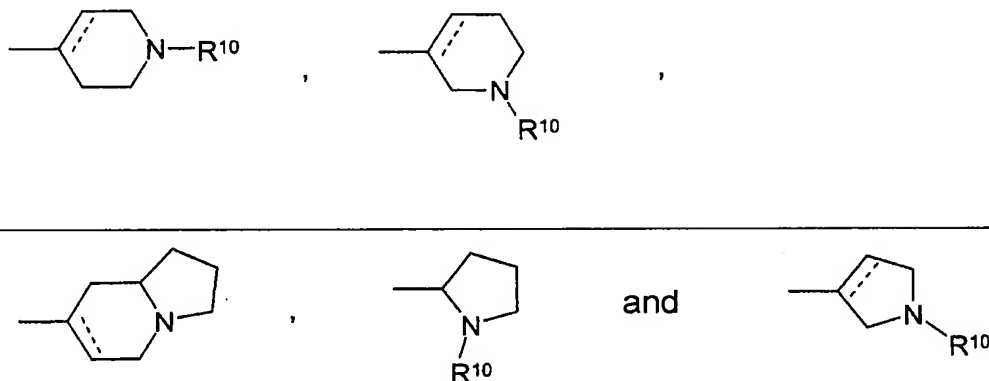
branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR¹²R¹³ radical, wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

~~optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, its racemate or in form of a mixture of at least two of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof, preferably a corresponding, physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a corresponding solvate thereof.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a saturated or unsaturated optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

~~preferably R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~



~~wherein, if present, the dotted line represents an optional chemical bond, and R¹⁰ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C₄-C₆ alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, preferably hydrogen or a C₄-C₂ alkyl radical.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₄-C₆ alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ each represent hydrogen.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that wherein R⁴ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical, a linear or branched,

optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably R⁴ represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₄-C₆ alkyl radical,~~

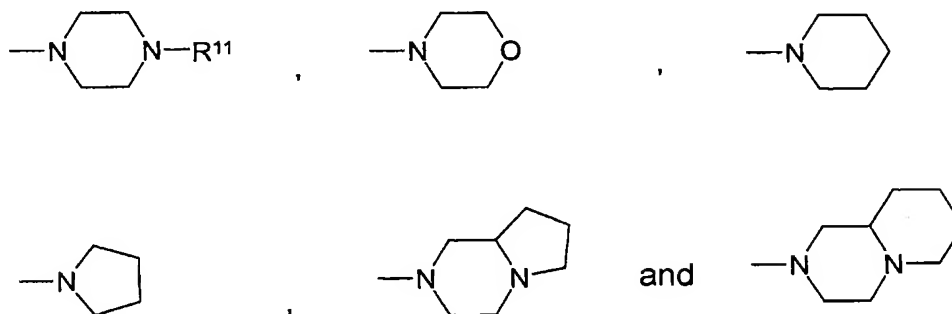
~~more preferably R⁴ represents hydrogen or a C₄-C₂ alkyl radical.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl, or

R⁸ and R⁹ together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₁₀ alkyl radical, or

R⁸ and R⁹ together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of

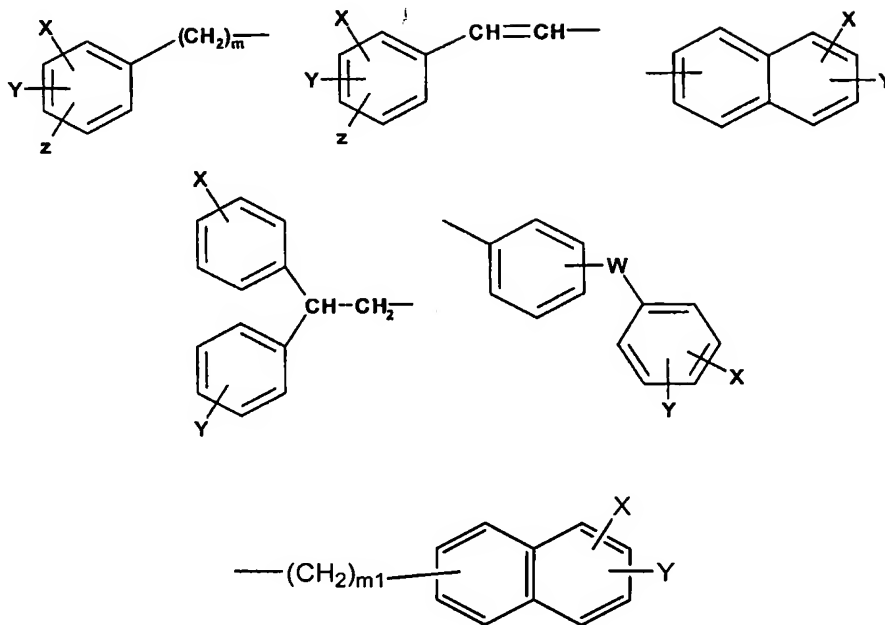


wherein R¹¹, if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, preferably hydrogen, or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 6,~~
characterized in that wherein A represents
~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein~~
~~the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least~~
~~mono-substituted C₄-C₆ alkylene group, an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-~~
~~C₆ alkenylene group or an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynylene~~
~~group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring~~
~~member,~~

~~preferably A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic~~
~~ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of~~
~~the rings contain at least one heteroatom,~~

or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ radical,

wherein R^{12} and R^{13} , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl,

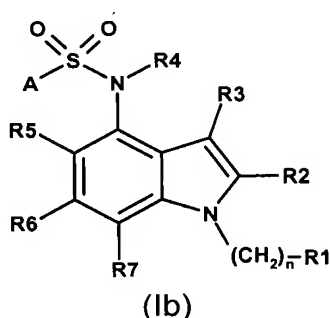
W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH_2 , O, S group or a NR^{14} radical,

wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl,

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

m_1 is 1 or 2.

8. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ib),



wherein

R^1 represents a $-NR^8R^9$ radical,

R^2 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or an optionally at least mono-substituted heteroaryl radical,

R^4 is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or naphthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C_{1-6} alkyl, linear or branched C_{1-6} alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C_{1-6}

perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR¹²R¹³ radical, wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene group and/or which may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member in one or more of its rings, and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers, ~~preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, its racemate or in form of a mixture of at least two of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers,~~ in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof, ~~preferably a corresponding, physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a corresponding solvate thereof.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R², R³, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ each represent hydrogen.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8 ~~or 9, characterized in that~~

wherein R^4 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably that R^4 represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least substituted C_4-C_6 alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R^4 represents hydrogen or a C_4-C_2 alkyl radical.~~

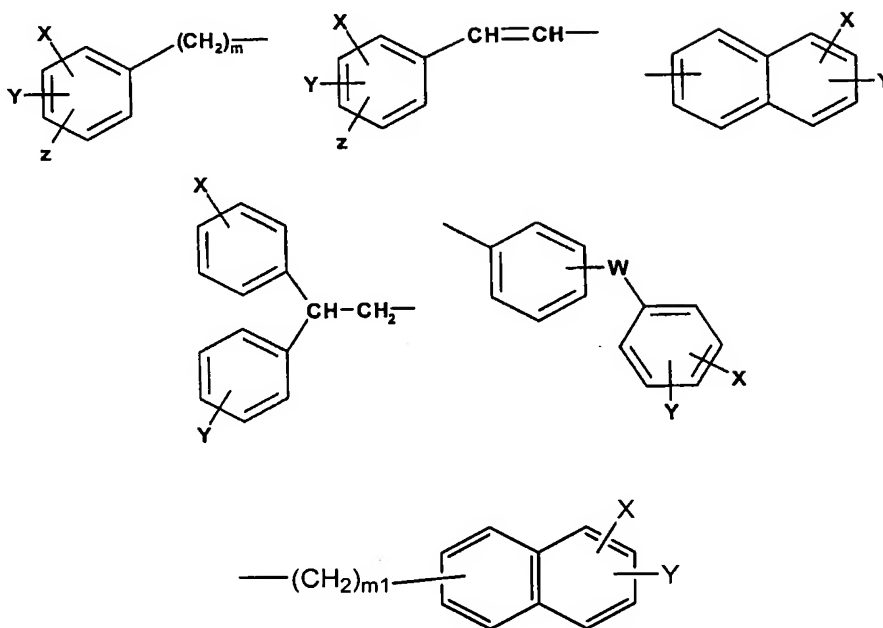
11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 10,~~ characterized in that wherein R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_4 alkyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably R^8 and R^9 represent hydrogen or a C_4-C_2 alkyl radical,
with the proviso that R^8 and R^9 are not hydrogen at the same time.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 11,~~ characterized in that wherein A represents ~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted C_4-C_6 alkylene group, an optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkenylene group or an optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkynylene group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member,~~

~~preferably A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom,~~

or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a -NR¹²R¹³ radical,

wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR¹⁴ radical,

wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

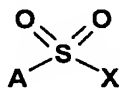
m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

m₁ is 1 or 2.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 12~~ selected from the group consisting of
- [2] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphthalene-2-sulfonamide,
- [3] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphthalene-1-sulfonamide,
- [4] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenylbenzenesulfonamide,
- [5] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-2-(naphthalene-1-yl)-ethanesulfonamide,
- [6] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenoxybenzenesulfonamide,
- [7] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-3,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide ~~and~~
- [8] 6-chloro-N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indol-4-yl]-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonamide

and their corresponding salts and solvates.

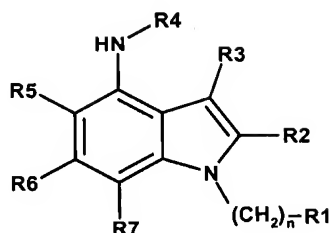
14 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to ~~one or more of claims 1—13,~~ characterized in that wherein a compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein A has the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1—13,~~ and X is an acceptable leaving group, ~~preferably a halogen atom, more preferably chlorine is~~ reacted with at least one 4-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably

protected derivatives;



(III)

wherein R^1 - R^7 and n have the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~ to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may be removed ~~if necessary~~.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, wherein R^1 - R^3 , R^5 - R^7 , n and A have the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, and R^4 represents C_1 - C_6 alkyl, ~~characterized by the process comprising~~ reacting at least one compound of general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein R^1 - R^3 , R^5 - R^7 , n and A have the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, and R^4 represents an hydrogen atom, with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.
16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~the salts, preferably the physiologically acceptable salts~~ of the compounds of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, ~~consisting of~~ the process comprising reacting at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.
17. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~medicament~~ comprising least one compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ and ~~optionally one or more~~

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pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 18-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A medicament composition comprising at least one compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 13 and optionally one or more~~ pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 46-72 (Cancelled).